

CHARLIE MELANCON
3RD DISTRICT, LOUISIANA

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
AND COMMERCE

COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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July 20, 2010

The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius
Secretary
The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

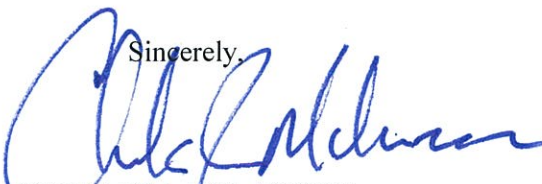
Dear Secretary Sebelius:

I am writing to you today to request your Department's help in securing available emergency funding for domestic violence prevention programs serving Southern Louisiana. As we are soon to enter the fourth month of the Deepwater Horizon oil leak, it has come to my attention that domestic violence prevention organizations are seeing an increase in domestic violence cases. For the sake of the thousands of woman and children who rely on these services, it is imperative that emergency funding be made available to these organizations which are battling this crisis every day.

Over the past five years, communities in Southern Louisiana have been devastated by a series of disasters, and this turmoil has taken a toll. Louisianians living along the Gulf are not only suffering economically from this most recent disaster, but also struggling emotionally from the stress and uncertainty of this tragedy. In times of extreme mental and emotional stress, incidences of domestic violence increase, and this latest tragedy is no exception. I have attached an update I received from the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence, which outlines many of the issues in the region. Although many non-profit agencies are doing all that they can to address the growing problem, these organizations desperately need additional funding to meet the increased demand and stop the cycle of domestic violence.

Again, I encourage you to make available any resources you might have to assist domestic violence prevention organizations in their active efforts to protect families from any further harm.

Sincerely,



CHARLES J. MELANCON
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

CJM: vlg

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July 20, 2010

The Honorable Eric J. Holder
Attorney General of the United States
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Holder:

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